

CLOVER GARDEN SCHOOL

Home of the Grizzlies



My name is Walter Finnigan. I am the Director of Clover Garden School located in Burlington, North Carolina. This is our 2nd year implementing the CORE Program Model created by Mr. Anthony DeNino and Mr. Jim Barbee. Implementing the CORE program into our school has significantly improved our student discipline referrals within the past two years. We began using the CORE program as an alternative to “teen court” as offered by the local sheriff’s department.

The utilization of the CORE program within the school climate is beneficial to maximum student growth. The CORE program takes the time to teach students about healthy ways in which to handle different situations that they may be faced with as an adolescent. The CORE program allows for the instructor and student to build a relationship with each other built on trust and respect. Students are taught how to “get to know” themselves and are able to handle situations more effectively upon completion of the program.

We have also added the CORE program model into our Healthful Living Curriculum for our 7th and 8th grade Physical Education students. Students learn about the different topics provided in CORE program such as self-esteem, empathy, overcoming fear and empowerment. The various topics will hold a different weight for each and every student. Therefore, student participation will differ depending on the coverage of the topic that is most relatable to them.

One of the most important components of the program in our experience has been the “Daily Quote” and “Ice Breaker” activities that go along with the weekly lessons. This allows students the opportunity to think critically about the questions being asked. This improves students’ critical thinking and writing skills.

Overall, we have been pleased with the confidence and strength that our students have exhibited upon completion of the CORE program. They have taken the positive tools that they have learned about and have applied them to their daily lives! Thanks again to the creators of the CORE program for making a positive difference in the lives of our community, teachers and students!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Walter Finnigan".

Walter Finnigan
Director
Clover Garden School